

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Surinder Sachar on 10/6/2009. The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 15, line 9, insert – at the processor – after the word "determining".

In claim 26, line 10, insert – at the processor – after the word "determining".

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-4, 6-18, and 20-27 are allowed over the prior art of record. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Mitchell et al. (USPN 6574595, already of record) fail to specifically disclose that tokens from different nodes that are to be passed to a common node are combined to generate a new token corresponding to the common node, said new token including a pointer to a word history structure that includes pointers to text unit concatenations from previous tokens of different nodes, and offsets indicating a difference in maximum likelihood scores between the text unit concatenations from the previous tokens; and the processor is further configured to delay a merging of the text unit concatenations in the new token to

determine the N-best likelihood values until an end of the speech segment and output the one or more candidate text unit concatenations corresponding to the speech segment. Furthermore, it would have not been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the prior art of record in order to derive the claimed invention. Therefore, claims 1-4, 6-18, and 20-27 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HUYEN X. VO whose telephone number is (571)272-7631. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Hudspeth can be reached on 571-272-7843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Huyen X Vo/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2626

10/8/2009
